

Adm. Burke Says Navy Will Seek Funds To Build 6 More Polaris Subs in Fiscal '61

By WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON—Admiral Arleigh A. Burke disclosed to Senate investigators that the Navy wants to ask Congress for enough money during the next fiscal year to build another six submarines armed with Polaris missiles.

Adm. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, made the disclosure at a joint hearing of the Senate Defense Preparedness subcommittee and Senate Space Committee after reluctantly conceding to questioners that he was not satisfied with the \$12.1 billion requested for the Navy in the budget for the year starting July 1. He said he considered Navy requirements to be \$15 billion.

Although the naval chief defended the over-\$11 billion defense budget, Democratic questioners pressed hard their contention that the Administration has sacrificed preparedness for a budget surplus. "What you mean is you're accepting the budgetary judgment, instead of the military judgment," Senate Leader Johnson of Texas, presiding over the hearing, told Adm. Burke.

It was then that the admiral disclosed the Navy is preparing a request for six Polaris-type submarines, in addition to the three provided in the budget. "I believe the Department of Defense will look favorably on it although I'm not sure," he said. He did not estimate exactly how much money the request would involve but testified that six fully-equipped Polaris submarines would cost \$975 million.

Challenges S.A.C. Head

The naval chief challenged the estimate by Gen. Thomas S. Power, head of the Strategic Air Command, that 300 Soviet missiles would be sufficient to destroy U.S. ability to retaliate with an air-borne alert of constantly cruising bombers is established. Adm. Burke contended a Soviet attack could not destroy carrier-based naval attack planes or Polaris submarines which will be in operation "in a very few months."

Adm. Burke opposed an air-borne alert at this time. This brought a rebuke from Sen. Symington (D., Mo.), a long-time champion of the Air Force. Mr. Symington declared "it's going to get difficult for me to vote for money for a sea alert for a Polaris submarine which goes no faster than 75 miles an hour" when the Administration will not ask money for an air-borne alert and has cut back money for the proposed B-70 supersonic bomber with a speed of almost 2,000 miles per hour. Adm. Burke replied that speed has less to do with the ability of a deterrent force to withstand enemy attack than its ability to stay hidden.

During the hearing, Sen. Symington asserted that Central Intelligence Agency estimates for Soviet missile strength during calendar 1961 and 1962 are greater than they were a year ago. The Senator contended that testimony by Mr. Gates and other Pentagon officials had implied that the estimates had decreased since they now were being based on how many missiles they intend to produce as well as how many they are capable of producing.

Adm. Burke's statements, along with heretofore secret testimony last month by other top Navy leaders made public yesterday by a House Appropriations subcommittee, demon-

strated that the President's \$41 billion spending budget for fiscal 1961 will give the country adequate power to deter a Russian attack. But each complained the nation would be even stronger if his service got more money and the others less.

President Eisenhower, at his press conference last week, took sharp issue with what he called "parochial viewpoints" on defense matters which, he said, claim "the bosses know nothing" about the subject. By this Mr. Eisenhower apparently intended a slap at the rivalry among his military commanders to get larger slices of the over-all defense budget.

In the testimony before the House subcommittee, Gen. Thomas D. White, Air Force chief of staff, asked for more money to build 5,000-mile-plus intercontinental ballistic missiles and to develop the sidelined B-70 bomber that is designed to go three times the speed of sound. He opposed the budget's \$293 million allocation for a new aircraft carrier for the Navy.

Navy's Requests

Gen. L. L. Lemnitzer, Army chief of staff, struck at Air Force demands for a speed-up in production of "first-generation" intercontinental missiles such as the Atlas, made by Convair Division of General Dynamics Corp., and the Titan, made by Martin Co. He contended the country should scatter more money into airplanes for fast movement of troops in emergencies and for modernization of weapons used by the Army.

None of the ranking military officers nor the civilian service secretaries, who back them up, estimated what the additional cost of these projects would be. But each said present Administration spending plans provide cash for an adequate defense. This, in itself, is a somewhat different impression than that given in later testimony by various military experts last week before Congressional committees. These later hearings left the feeling that a large number of officers, chiefly in the Air Force considered the spending plans inadequate.

"I think," said Gen. White, "we, with our manned bomber force today and the one we will have in the future, supplemented by the I.C.B.M.'s we will have, are going to provide the kind of deterrent which will preserve this nation and prevent war through the time when our less expensive and more sophisticated weapons system . . . will give us the option to go very much greater numbers than we have now." The general said the "sophisticated" weapon he is banking on is the Minuteman, a 5,000-mile-a-minute missile on which Boeing Airplane Co. is assembling the components.

Gen. White, however, made clear he would feel better about U.S. defenses if he had more money for construction of Atlas and Titan missiles. He urged more spending by the Government in space research. He made his strongest argument for a speed-up version of the B-70 bomber. The Defense Department decided late last year to cut back work on this airplane, limiting spending for construction of two proto-

Adm. Burke, in testimony before the House subcommittee, said the Navy is planning to install three missiles on each type surface ship as well as submarines. Polaris, he told the Congressmen, can be launched from a mobile base which based Russian missile launchers would have difficulty finding, much less hitting. For the same reason, he urged construction of a new carrier with either conventional or nuclear power. The Navy wants nuclear engines but has accepted an Administration decision to limit the carrier to less expensive conventional power.

The admiral hit back hard at suggestions that the Air Force take over control of Polaris. He contended naval officers must command the missile-carrying ships and remain general control of these weapons.

Although he said he believes Russian submarines contain "one of the gravest and most threatening threats we face," Adm. Burke said the Navy has reduced production of underwater craft. "They actually built submarines in 1956," the top sailor testified. "They had the capacity

to continue, but what did they do? They got a large number of submarines and then they stopped and went into new production, but the new production is much less. They will build submarines at some lesser rate to replace probably the submarines they now have and keep their submarine force about level." Russian submarines estimated to have more than 500 submarines.

The third side of the budget-juggling argument came from the Army, which claims it is being passed over. "There is no doubt about the fact that the Army has less and less each year," complained Army Secretary Wilbur Brucker.

Mr. Brucker and Gen. Lemnitzer argued bitterly that the Pentagon lacks enough plans for emergency airlifts.

"Woefully and hopelessly unprepared," declared Gen. Lemnitzer. Army officials contend the Air Force lacks enough transport planes to quickly fly soldiers from the bases or other bases to spots where small wars might break out, similar to the Lebanon and Formosa crises of 1958.

The Army also urged that the Air Force develop "an inexpensive tactical fighter capable of operating off semi-improved fields." Army spokesmen asserted most fighter planes in the Air Force are big, complicated machines designed chiefly for air defense rather than front-line use with ground forces.

Secretary Brucker urged the subcommittee, headed by Rep. Mahon (D., Tex.), to give more attention to the Army's Nike-Zeus anti-missile. Army officials contend this weapon will work against incoming Soviet missiles but other authorities are skeptical.